

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A device for connecting subnets in a vehicle, comprising:

a gateway unit configured to connect at least two subsystems, wherein the gateway unit is made of at least one modular software gateway, which routes messages between only two subnets.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific receiving objects configured to relay incoming messages to selected software gateways, the bus-specific receiving objects being provided for each subnet.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific transmitting objects configured to monitor access to a particular bus, for each subnet.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

14. (Previously Presented) A device for connecting subnets in a vehicle comprising:

a gateway unit configured to connect at least two subsystems, the gateway unit being integrated in a control unit having an application system and being provided in one layer of a

communication system of the vehicle, the gateway unit including at least one modular logical gateway, the logical gateway connecting only two subsystems.

15. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems.

16. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

bus-specific receiving objects configured to relay incoming messages to selected software gateways, the bus-specific receiving objects being provided for each subnet.

17. (New) The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured.

18. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

bus-specific transmitting objects configured to monitor access to a particular bus, for each subnet.

19. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

20. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

bus-specific receiving objects configured to relay incoming messages to selected software gateways, the bus-specific receiving objects being provided for each subnet,

wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems.

wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured, and

wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

21. (New) The device as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

bus-specific transmitting objects configured to monitor access to a particular bus, for each subnet,

wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems,

wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured, and

wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

22. (New) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific receiving objects configured to relay incoming messages to selected software gateways, the bus-specific receiving objects being provided for each subnet,

wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems.

wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured, and

wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

23. (New) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific transmitting objects configured to monitor access to a particular bus, for each subnet,

wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only two subsystems,

wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured, and

wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.